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EXAMINER

POINVIL, FRANTZY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2164

DATE MAILED: 01/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

*Handwritten signature*

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
08/951,630

Applicant(s)

VANCE ET AL.

Examiner

Frantzy Poinvil

Art Unit

2164



— Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with th correspondence address —

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 30, 2001

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35, 64, 67-69, 73-86, and 92-135 is/are pending in the applica

4a) Of the above, claim(s) 1-35, 75-86, 94-98, 115, and 116 is/are withdrawn from considera

5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 64, 67-69, 73, 74, 92, 93, 99-114, and 117-135 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirem

## Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

20) ☐ Other:

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 64, 67-69, 73-74, 92-93, 99-112 and 117-135 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo et al (US Patent No. 6,023,679) in view of Shoolery et al (US Patent No. 5,570,283).

As per claims 64 and 73, 92 and 93 Shoolery et al discloses a travel system and a computer implemented method of managing information in a travel system comprising storing travel information corresponding to itineraries and associated expense data and travel policy data in a storage subsystem. The arranging, generating and linking steps are all discussed on columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al. Shoolery also teaches having rules for determining whether a traveler's requested travel plan complies with travel policies associated with the enterprise. Allowing a traveler to complete a travel reservation in compliance with an enterprise rules is discussed on column 5, lines 44-59 of Shoolery. Post reservation processing is also well known in the art. Note column 5, lines 33-40 of Shoolery. Storing frequent trip data is stored by Acebo et al.

As per claim 74, applicant is directed to column 5, lines 33-40 of Shoolery et al.

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As per claim 67, all the claimed limitations are discussed on columns 7-8 with the exception of providing and storing preference data associated with travelers or group of travelers. Allowing a traveler to reserve a travel plan based on a result of the determination for each request and communicate the reserved travel plan to a travel agency for subsequent processing is discussed on columns 6-8.

As per claim 68, applicant is directed to column 8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 69, updating for reflecting enterprise-wide travel information in the database would have been obvious to the skilled artisan with the motivation of providing travelers and employees with the latest policies and trip data.

3. Applicant has amended the independent claim to recite a method for creating a new travel reservation based on information reflecting frequent trips by a user providing a new travel dates. Applicant then argues that such is not present in Acebo et al.

In response, as per claims 99-100, Acebo et al is directed to a pre-and Post ticketed travel reservation information management. Customer profile is stored at a computer reservation system or at a local computer. Note column 4, lines 35-62. Acebo et al also directed to a method and system for storing booked travel itinerary reservation information, including at least two travel transactions generated by a computer reservation system (CRS) for subsequent processing in a locally operated computer system. It is also noted that a travel request is made via computer reservation system. The Examiner notes that if a new travel request needs to be made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to recall one of

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the frequent trip or travel transaction so that new travel data need not be re-inputted.

Furthermore, Acebo et al prefer to recall customer profiles or transaction data instead of reinputting identical data. Note column 4, 42-52.

Shoolery et al discloses a corporate travel system in which time and dates are given for a travel request. Note column 7, lines 8-20. A user desiring to input a new date when desiring to make a new travel reservation based on a frequent trip would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art because in most travel requests as taught by Shoolery et al, a date must be supplied in order to assure or confirm departure/arrival dates and time. Thus, since all frequent trip information are stored in the CRS, making a new travel request by supplying a new travel date would have ensured a much faster manner of booking a reservation request since no other information would be required to reenter.

As per claim 101, Acebo et al teaches storing travel expenses for a given travel transactions. Steps of creating a new expense report for the new travel reservation would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art if the user desires to make changes. Thus, travel transactions of the new travel request would differ from the stored frequent travel transactions and such would result in creating a new expense report reflecting changes.

As per claim 102, a log of travel reservations is stored in the PNR.

As per claim 103, having an expense report associated with each entry in the log is not explicitly taught by Acebo et al. However, Acebo et al teaches that it is well known in the art to obtain trip expenses associated with a traveler's trip by obtaining expenses from different tables

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associated with a customer's trip. Note column 3, lines 55-67 of Acebo et al. Obtaining expenses associated with each entry in the log would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for employee fraud analysis and expenses purposes.

As per claims 104-108, creating, automatically populating at least one field of the new expense report or prompting the particular traveler for information to complete a new expense report would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in order to fill every entry of a particular employee record from the expense database in association with particular records for analysis by the employee's organization.

As per claims 109-110, Acebo et al checks whether components of a new travel reservation comply with predetermined policies or agreements governing travel associated with an entity. Note column 13, lines 6-14 of Acebo et al.

As per claims 111-112, note column 3 of Acebo et al.

As per claims 117-119, dates are usually provided reflecting at least one of a month, day and year, and a traveler is usually given the opportunity to cancel a travel or a purchase within a predetermined period of time. Introducing these well known information in the system of Acebo et al would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to provide a user friendly system.

As per claim 120, note column 9, lines 1-27 and the abstract.

As per claims 121, note the rejection of claims 99-120 above.

As per claims 112-135, having predetermined policies and restrictions governing travel associated with an entity is not explicitly detailed in Acebo et al. Shoolery et al discloses a

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corporate travel system having a computerized system for travel planning, expense reporting based on travel policies. Note the abstract and columns 7-8. Shoolery et al also discusses post reservation processing. Note column 5, lines 33-40 of Shoolery et al. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the travel policies and restrictions governing travel associated with an entity as discussed by Shoolery et al into Acebo et al in order to direct an employee of an organizations of associated mandatory rules when making a travel request and associated travel transactions.

4. Claims 113-114 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo et al (US Patent No. 6,023,679) and Shoolery et al as applied to claims 99-112 above, and further in view of Kahl et al.

The teachings of Acebo et al are discussed above. Acebo et al fails to teach a calendar having icons representing events. As per claims 113-114, Acebo et al does not explicitly teach displaying a calendar showing at least one month divided into days with at least two icons on days associated with the new travel reservation wherein the icons represent components on the travel reservation. Displaying a calendar showing months divided into days with icons representing a particular item of interest is well known in the art as taught by Kahl et al. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to introduce the feature of Kahl et al into Acebo et al in order to provide instant instantly at a glance.

5. Applicant has stated that claims 1-35, 64, 67-69, 73-86, 92-98 and 115-116 were allowable over the art of record and an indication of allowability was made before the Restriction

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Requirement on March 29 2001 and concludes that claims 1-35, 64, 67-69, 73-86 and 92-135 are now allowable.

In response, a restriction of these claims was made and applicant elected to have claims 99-114 being examined. Thus claims 1-35, 92-98 and 115-116 were withdrawn from consideration. Note paper No. 6 and No. 7.

6.

*Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frantzy Poinvil, whose telephone number is (703) 305-9779. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

The fax phone number for this Art Unit is (703) 305-0040.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

FP

12Jan02

*F Poinvil*  
**Frantzy Poinvil**  
**Primary Examiner**  
**Art Unit 2164**